PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NO. PRIT01-00001

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-41. (Canceled)

42. (New) Computer-implementable instruction code operable on a user device for constructing and transmitting a password to an authentication device that authenticates the password and grants the user device access to protected information, said instruction code being operable for:

receiving through an input device from a user, a sequence of predefined characters to be utilized to construct the password;

placing the received characters in at least two data packets, without regard to any timing characteristics with which the characters were received;

retrieving from a memory, a time interval mutually agreed upon by the user device and the authentication device; and

individually transmitting the data packets to the authentication device separated in time by the mutually agreed upon time interval.

43. (New) In a user device, a computer-implemented method of constructing and transmitting a password to an authentication device that authenticates the password and grants the user device access to protected information, said method comprising:

receiving through an input device from a user, a sequence of predefined characters to be utilized to construct the password;

placing the received characters in at least two data packets;

retrieving from a memory, a predefined time interval; and

individually transmitting the data packets to the authentication device separated in time by the predefined time interval.

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44.   (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the password includes at least three data packets, and wherein the step of retrieving a predefined time interval includes retrieving a first predefined time interval for separating a first pair of adjacent data packets and retrieving a different second predefined time interval for separating a second pair of adjacent data packets.

45.   (New) The method of claim 43, further comprising, before the retrieving step, the steps of:
    receiving at least one predefined time interval from the authentication device; and
    storing the at least one predefined time interval in the memory.

46.   (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the step of placing the received characters in at least two data packets includes placing a plurality of characters in at least one data packet.

47.   (New) In an authentication device, a computer-implemented method of authenticating a user device requesting access to protected information through the authentication device, said method comprising:
    receiving at least two individually transmitted data packets from the user device;
    measuring a time of receipt for each received data packet to determine a received time interval separating each data packet from an adjacent data packet received from the user device;
    determining by the authentication device, whether the received time interval separating each data packet from an adjacent data packet matches the predefined time interval;
    extracting characters from the received data packets;
    determining by the authentication device, whether the extracted characters match the sequence of predefined characters; and

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positively authenticating the user device only if the received time interval separating each data packet from an adjacent data packet matches the predefined time interval, and the extracted characters match the sequence of predefined characters.

48.   (New) A method of transmitting a computer password having a plurality of characters, comprising:

placing the plurality of characters in at least two data packets;

obtaining at least one predefined time interval for defining an individual transmission time for transmitting each data packet from a user device to an authentication device; and

individually transmitting the at least two data packets from the user device to the authentication device at the individual transmission times for each data packet;

wherein a valid password must carry the correct characters in the data packets, and the data packets must be received by the authentication device with the correct time interval between sequential data packets.

49.   (New) The computer password of claim 48, wherein at least one of the data packets carries a plurality of the characters of the user's password.

50.   (New) A computer-implemented method of authenticating a user device requesting access to protected information through an authentication device, said method comprising:

in the user device:

receiving through an input device from a user, a sequence of predefined characters to be utilized to construct the password;

placing the received characters in at least two data packets;

retrieving from a memory, a predefined time interval; and

individually transmitting the data packets to the authentication device separated in time by the predefined time interval; and

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in the authentication device:

receiving the individually transmitted data packets from the user device;

measuring a time of receipt for each received data packet to determine a received time interval separating each data packet from an adjacent data packet in the password;

determining by the authentication device, whether the received time interval separating each data packet from an adjacent data packet matches the predefined time interval;

extracting the characters from the received data packets;

determining by the authentication device, whether the extracted characters match the sequence of predefined characters; and

positively authenticating the user device only if the received time interval separating each data packet from an adjacent data packet matches the predefined time interval, and the extracted characters match the sequence of predefined characters.

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